Dear Prof. Dr. Mulder,

On behalf of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) of the Hubrecht Institute I would like to inform you that the SAB members unanimously subscribe the conclusions and recommendations described in the evaluation report of November 2014. In our view, the present and previous directors of the Hubrecht Institute have managed to attract a team of excellent principal investigators, both at the junior and the senior level. Particularly the high ratio of outstanding young investigators is providing the Institute with a vibrant atmosphere that is very attractive for students, postdocs and future new recruits. The Hubrecht Institute has clearly ranked itself amongst the best research institutes in the world.

The members of the SAB would like to draw special attention to section 2.9 of the evaluation report, dealing with future threats and challenges for the Hubrecht Institute. We feel that to maintain its current high-ranking position, the Hubrecht Institute will need to have its financial support intensified. We therefore strongly recommend that its core funding is increased to avoid having to compromise on the quality and competitiveness of its research infrastructure and start-up packages.

Best regards, on behalf of all members of the SAB,

René Medema